

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IZMIR 00505 040135Z

64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 031420Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1108

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: OUTCOME OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN IZMIR
CONSULAR DISTRICT WILL BE DETERMINED PRIMARILY BY
LOCAL ISSUES AND PERSONALITIES OF CANDIDATES. WHILE
PEOPLE CONCERNED BY NATIONAL PROBLEMS, THIS CONCERN
DOES NOT APPEAR TO INFLUENCE ATTITUDES TOWARD LOCAL
CANDIDATES. MOST IMPORTANT RECURRENT SITUATION
FOUND IN VARIOUS PROVINCES OF THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT
IS DISARRAY OF LOCAL JP ORGANIZATION. THIS DISARRAY

WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN LOSS OF JP CONTROL OF 4 OR 5
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL GOVERNMENTS IN DECEMBER
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER POLOFF MADE BRIEF
TRIP THROUGH AYDIN, DENIZLI, BURDUR, ISPARTA, AND
ANTALYA PROVINCES IN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY ANY PARTI-
CULAR ISSUES AND SITUATIONS WHICH MIGHT INFLUENCE
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OUTCOME OF DECEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. BASED

ON CONSERVATIONS DURING TRIP AND OTHER SOUNDINGS
WE OFFER FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

2. WHILE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION MAY HAVE PROFOUND
EFFECT ON NATIONAL ELECTIONS, NATIONAL SITUATION
HAS VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTIONS. RESULTS
OF OCTOBER GENERAL ELECTION HAVE GENERALLY BEEN
INTERPRETED AS PERSONAL VICTORY FOR ECEVIT AND HIS
MORE DYNAMIC CAMPAIGN AND A LOSS FOR DEMIREL AND HIS
LACKLUSTER CAMPAIGN. WHILE WE BELIEVE THIS INTER-
PRETATION GENERALLY TRUE, IN RETROSPECT IT APPEARS
THAT RESULTS OF ELECTION IN SOUTHWESTERN TURKEY
ALSO REFLECTED SITUATION IN WHICH WEAKENED LOCAL JP

PAGE 3 RUQNBWQ0395 C O N F I D E N T I A L

ORGANIZATIONS BESET BY INTERNAL CONFLICT WERE
OPPOSED BY UNIFIED RPP AND NEWLY ORGANIZED AND
COHERENT DP ORGANIZATIONS.

3. LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL PROBABLY REFLECT THIS
SITUATION EVEN MORE CLEARLY. CURRENTLY IN IZMIR
CONSULAR DISTRICT / TEN PROVINCIAL CAPITALS HAVE JP
MAYORS. IN TWO PROVINCES THERE ARE INDEPENDENT
MAYORS AND ONE OF THESE CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE JP.
IN FOUR PROVINCES (DENIZLI, BURDUR, MANISA, AND
BALIKESIR) JP ORGANIZATION DIVIDED AND INCUMBENT HAS
EITHER CHOSEN NOT TO RUN OR HAS BEEN OUSTED IN PRE-
ELECTION. IN ANTALYA STRONG INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE
IN PERSON OF FORMER MILITARY GOVERNOR, STRONG DP
CANDIDATE AND SCANDAL-WEAKENED INCUMBENT JP MAYOR
WILL DIVIDE CONSERVATIVE VOTES, PERHAPS PRODUCING
RPP MAYOR. JP MAYOR OF USAK WHO HAS SERVED FOR 18
YEARS ALSO APPEARS TO BE IN TROUBLE. ONLY IN ISPARTA
WHERE JP MAYOR RUNNING UNOPPOSED AND IN AFYON WHERE
INDEPENDENT MAYOR VERY POPULAR ARE INCUMBENTS
ASSURED OF VICTORY.

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PAGE 03 IZMIR 00505 040135Z

4. IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THESE ELECTIONS ARE LOCAL
PROBLEMS AND PERSONALITIES. WHILE PEOPLE ARE AWARE
OF AND CONCERNED BY NATIONAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY
BY FAILURE TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, THERE DOES NOT
APPEAR TO BE ANY INCLINATION TO INTERPRET NATIONAL
ISSUES IN LOCAL TERMS. FOR THIS REASON OUTCOME OF
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, WHILE POSSIBLY REFLECTIVE OF
NATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION, WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED

SIGNIFICANTLY BY THAT SITUATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973IZMIR00505
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: IZMIR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731250/aaaabkku.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SUMMARY: OUTCOME OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN IZMIR
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005